



2007/08

**CONTINUING GRANT
APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

FOR

EARLY LEARNING WITH FAMILIES @ YOUR LIBRARY
USING CHILD DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE TO ENRICH LIBRARY SERVICES

Application Deadline:

May 4, 2007

Funding Source:
Library Services and Technology Act
California State Library



Early Learning with Families (ELF) @ Your Library

USING CHILD DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE TO ENRICH LIBRARY SERVICES

Vision

Position libraries as community learning centers that offer families and their young children stimulating opportunities for play and early learning. Design and implement innovative library services that reflect current research and best practices related to child development and engaging babies, toddlers, preschoolers, their parents, and childcare providers. Deliver these services primarily through the power of parental connection and modeling. Create places for families that inspire early learning through stimulating surroundings, relevant resources, and opportunities for experimentation and play. Offer a wide range of resources that reflect the needs and interests of the families and children involved. Integrate community organizations and their expertise into early learning programming, events and resources. Implement policies and procedures that accommodate the needs of families with very young children. Transform libraries into family centered early learning environments in which families and their youngest children are introduced to the magic of the written word, the joys of storytelling, the wonder of books, and the value of language through the realm of play and the power of parents as teachers.

Goals

- ❖ Increase usage of library services by families and childcare providers with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- ❖ Increase community awareness of the library as an early childhood development and parenting resource.
- ❖ Increase childcare providers' and parents' confidence in supporting young children's early development, learning and literacy skills.
- ❖ Increase supportive parental and caregiver behaviors that promote early learning and literacy skills.

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Continuing Grant Guidelines 2007/08

1. The State Library is pleased to announce the availability of funding for continuation of the ELF initiative.
2. Libraries eligible to apply for a 2007/08 Continuation ELF grant are those libraries that participated in the 2006/07 ELF initiative. This includes the twenty-six libraries that were awarded mini-grants in 2006/07, and the thirteen libraries that served on the 2006/07 ELF Advisory Committee.
3. Applications should demonstrate how services offered or changes made in 2006/07 will be extended and enhanced to further ELF values and goals. ELF program characteristics (see document below) should serve as the framework for any work to be undertaken in 2007/08.
4. Applications must include sound and thorough justification for the funds requested, up to a maximum of \$25,000. ELF funds are not intended for the purchase of computer equipment or software.
5. Applications should address the library's willingness to participate in outcomes data collection utilizing standardized survey tools (a parent/caregiver survey and a library staff survey) developed specifically for this purpose (initial drafts of which were included in the original training manual – final versions of which will be made available to all participating libraries). The library agrees to administer these surveys as instructed over the coming grant year and provide the data to the State Library for centralized analysis. Willingness to comply with outcomes data collection is a prerequisite to funding.
6. Applications will be evaluated and scored as follows:
 - Quality, extent and description of envisioned enhancements or service expansion, and plans for sustainability into subsequent years (*30 maximum points*)
 - Explanation of how envisioned work will further ELF values and goals (*15 maximum points*)
 - Explanation of how proposed work will build upon lessons learned (*15 maximum points*)
 - Plan for outreach and community partnerships (*20 maximum points*)
 - Realistic and adequate budget and narrative (*20 maximum points*)
7. The Continuing grant application form is available on the California State Library website at http://www.library.ca.gov/html/lsta_app_07_08.cfm
8. A completed application packet consists of the original application (signed in blue ink), plus 5 copies, and a signed CIPA Form A <http://www.library.ca.gov/assets/acrobat/lsta/CIPA-A.doc>
9. Applications must be received at the State Library no later than **4:00pm on May 4, 2007** at the address indicated on the top of the application form.
10. If you have further questions, please contact Suzanne Flint at 916-651-9796 or sflint@library.ca.gov, or Judy Klikun at 916-446-6378 or jklikun@sbcglobal.net

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Program Characteristics

Although the specifics of ELF libraries may vary greatly, they share the following common characteristics:

1. Enhanced programs and services reflect child development concepts, and are targeted to families with children from birth to 5 years of age.
2. Programs and services acknowledge the needs of the WHOLE child, including development of cognitive (language and literacy), social, emotional, and physical skills.
3. Programs are designed to provide opportunities for parent-supported, child-directed exploration and play.
4. Programs employ a facilitative, rather than instructive, approach to learning among families, parents, and childcare providers.
5. Parents' expertise as their children's first teacher is recognized and nurtured.
6. Comfortable family-friendly spaces are provided which convey a welcoming atmosphere, with dedicated resources for parents and young children that are accessible and engaging, and programming that is convenient and compelling.
7. Policies are reviewed and revised to better accommodate the needs of families with very young children.
8. Children's Services work collaboratively with Literacy Services, and other library departments, to implement and deliver ELF programming.
9. Community partnerships are sought and formed in order to involve, utilize and highlight the expertise of area organizations and agencies.
10. Innovative outreach strategies are used to engage families with young children, particularly those who do not typically use the library.
11. Services are delivered not only at the library but also at community locations where families frequent.
12. Families enjoy participating in ELF programs and utilize the library more frequently.